

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An RNA comprising a joined sequence of at least sixty-two but not more than seventy nucleotides and having secondary structure defined by:
  - five nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;
  - 5 four nucleotides forming a first end loop region;
  - five nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region;
  - three nucleotides forming a first side of a first internal loop region;
  - five nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;
  - one nucleotide forming a first side of a second internal loop region;
  - 10 six nucleotides forming a first side of a third double stranded region;
  - eight nucleotides forming a second end loop region;
  - six nucleotides forming a second side of said third double stranded region;
  - one nucleotide forming a second side of said second internal loop region;
  - five nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region;
  - 15 two nucleotides forming a second side of said first internal loop region;
  - three nucleotides forming a first side of a fourth double stranded region;
  - five nucleotides forming a third end loop region; and
  - three nucleotides forming a second side of said fourth double stranded region.
2. The RNA of claim 1 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second double stranded region are of the sequence AAANU, AAAAU, or AAUU and said nucleotides forming said second side of said second double stranded region are of the sequence GNUNN, GUUUU, GGUUU, GGUGU, or GGUUC.
3. The RNA of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide forming said first side of said second internal loop region is U and said nucleotide forming said second side of said second internal loop region is N, U or C.
- 25 4. The RNA of claim 1 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said third double stranded region are of the sequence UAUAUU and said nucleotides forming said

second side of said third doubled stranded region are of the sequence NAUNNA, GAUAUA, AAUGUA, GAUGCA, or GAUGUA.

5. The RNA of claim 1 wherein said nucleotides forming said second end loop region are of the sequence UAUUNUUN, UAUUUUUU, UAUUGUUG, or UAUUUUUG.

5 6. The RNA of claim 1 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first internal loop region are of the sequence UUU and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first internal loop region are of the sequence NC, CC, GC, UC, or AC.

7. The RNA of claim 1 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said fourth double stranded region are of the sequence UAN, UAC, or UAA and said nucleotides forming  
10 said second side of said fourth doubled stranded region are of the sequence NUA, GUA, or CUA.

8. The RNA of claim 1 wherein said nucleotides forming said third end loop region are of the sequence CUNUU, CUUUU, or CUAUU.

9. The RNA of claim 1 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

15 10. The RNA of claim 1 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

11. A purified and isolated RNA comprising a joined sequence of nucleotides having secondary structure defined by:

five nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;

four nucleotides forming a first end loop region;

20 five nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region;

three nucleotides forming a first side of a first internal loop region;

five nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;

one nucleotide forming a first side of a second internal loop region;

six nucleotides forming a first side of a third double stranded region;

- eight nucleotides forming a second end loop region;  
six nucleotides forming a second side of said third double stranded region;  
one nucleotide forming a second side of said second internal loop region;  
five nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region;  
5 two nucleotides forming a second side of said first internal loop region;  
three nucleotides forming a first side of a fourth double stranded region;  
five nucleotides forming a third end loop region; and  
three nucleotides forming a second side of said fourth double stranded region.

12. The RNA of claim 11 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second  
10 double stranded region are of the sequence AAANU, AAAAU, or AAAUU and said  
nucleotides forming said second side of said second double stranded region are of the  
sequence GNUNN, GUUUU, GGUUU, GGUGU, or GGUUC.

13. The RNA of claim 11 wherein said nucleotide forming said first side of said second  
internal loop region is U and said nucleotide forming said second side of said second internal  
15 loop region is N, U or C.

14. The RNA of claim 11 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said third  
double stranded region are of the sequence UAUAUU and said nucleotides forming said  
second side of said third double stranded region are of the sequence NAUNNA, GAUAUA,  
AAUGUA, GAUGCA, or GAUGUA.

20 15. The RNA of claim 11 wherein said nucleotides forming said second end loop region  
are of the sequence UAUUNUUN, UAUUUUUU, UAUUGUUG, or UAUUUUUG.

16. The RNA of claim 11 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first  
internal loop region are of the sequence UUU and said nucleotides forming said second side  
of said first internal loop region are of the sequence NC, CC, GC, UC, or AC.

17. The RNA of claim 11 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said fourth double stranded region are of the sequence UAN, UAC, or UAA and said nucleotides forming said second side of said fourth double stranded region are of the sequence NUA, GUA, or CUA.
- 5 18. The RNA of claim 11 wherein said nucleotides forming said third end loop region are of the sequence CUNUU, CUUUU, or CUAUU.
19. The RNA of claim 11 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.
20. The RNA of claim 11 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.
21. An *in silico* RNA comprising a joined sequence of nucleotides having secondary  
10 structure defined by:
- five nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;
  - four nucleotides forming a first end loop region;
  - five nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region;
  - three nucleotides forming a first side of a first internal loop region;
  - 15 five nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;
  - one nucleotide forming a first side of a second internal loop region;
  - six nucleotides forming a first side of a third double stranded region;
  - eight nucleotides forming a second end loop region;
  - six nucleotides forming a second side of said third double stranded region;
  - 20 one nucleotide forming a second side of said second internal loop region;
  - five nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region;
  - two nucleotides forming a second side of said first internal loop region;
  - three nucleotides forming a first side of a fourth double stranded region;
  - five nucleotides forming a third end loop region; and
  - 25 three nucleotides forming a second side of said fourth double stranded region.

22. The RNA of claim 21 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second double stranded region are of the sequence AAANU, AAAAU, or AAAUU and said nucleotides forming said second side of said second doubled stranded region are of the sequence GNUNN, GUUUU, GGUUU, GGUGU, or GGUUC.
- 5 23. The RNA of claim 21 wherein said nucleotide forming said first side of said second internal loop region is U and said nucleotide forming said second side of said second internal loop region is N, U or C.
24. The RNA of claim 21 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said third double stranded region are of the sequence UAUAUU and said nucleotides forming said  
10 second side of said third doubled stranded region are of the sequence NAUNNA, GAUAUA, AAUGUA, GAUGCA, or GAUGUA.
25. The RNA of claim 21 wherein said nucleotides forming said second end loop region are of the sequence UAUUNUUN, UAUUUUUU, UAUUGUUG, or UAUUUUUG.
26. The RNA of claim 21 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first  
15 internal loop region are of the sequence UUU and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first internal loop region are of the sequence NC, CC, GC, UC, or AC.
27. The RNA of claim 21 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said fourth double stranded region are of the sequence UAN, UAC, or UAA and said nucleotides forming said second side of said fourth doubled stranded region are of the sequence NUA, GUA, or  
20 CUA.
28. The RNA of claim 21 wherein said nucleotides forming said third end loop region are of the sequence CUNUU, CUUUU, or CUAUU.
29. The RNA of claim 21 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

30. The RNA of claim 21 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

31. An RNA comprising the consensus sequence UAUUUUUUUAAAUAUUUAA  
ANUUUUAUUUUUAUUNUUNNAUNNANGNUNNNNCUANCUNUUNUA and having a  
first double stranded region, a first end loop region, a first internal loop region, a second  
5 double stranded region, a second internal loop region, a third double stranded region, a second  
end loop region, a fourth double stranded region, and a third end loop region.

32. An *in silico* representation of an RNA fragment that is conserved across at least two  
species comprising the sequence UAUUUUUUUAAAUAUUUAAANUUUUAUUUU  
AUUNUUNNAUNNANGNUNNNNCUANCUNUUNUA.

10 33. A purified and isolated RNA fragment that is conserved across at least two species  
comprising the sequence UAUUUUUUUAAAUAUUUAAANUUUUAUUUUUAUUNUU  
NNAUNNANGNUNNNNCUANCUNUUNUA.

34. A purified and isolated RNA fragment comprising the human sequence  
15 UAUUUUUUUAAAUAUUUAAAUUUUUAUUUUUAUUGUUGAAUGUAUGGUUUG  
CUACCUAUUGUA.

35. An RNA comprising a joined sequence of at least thirty-two but not more than seventy  
nucleotides and having secondary structure defined by:

- 20 five nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;  
one nucleotide forming a first side of a first internal loop region;  
six nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;  
eight nucleotides forming a first end loop region;  
six nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region;  
one nucleotide forming a second side of said first internal loop region; and  
five nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region.

36. The RNA of claim 35 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first double stranded region are of the sequence AAANU, AAAAU, or AAAUU and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first doubled stranded region are of the sequence GNUNN, GUUUU, GGUUU, GGUGU, or GGUUC.

5 37. The RNA of claim 35 wherein said nucleotide forming said first side of said first internal loop region is U and said nucleotide forming said second side of said first internal loop region is N, U or C.

38. The RNA of claim 35 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second double stranded region are of the sequence UAUAUU and said nucleotides forming said  
10 second side of said second doubled stranded region are of the sequence NAUNNA, GAUAUA, AAUGUA, GAUGCA, or GAUGUA.

39. The RNA of claim 35 wherein said nucleotides forming said first end loop region are of the sequence UAUUNUUN, UAUUUUUU, UAUUGUUG, or UAUUUUUG.

40. The RNA of claim 35 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

15 41. The RNA of claim 35 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

42. A purified and isolated RNA comprising a joined sequence of nucleotides having secondary structure defined by:

- five nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;
- one nucleotide forming a first side of a first internal loop region;
- 20 six nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;
- eight nucleotides forming a first end loop region;
- six nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region;
- one nucleotide forming a second side of said first internal loop region; and
- five nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region.

43. The RNA of claim 42 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first double stranded region are of the sequence AAANU, AAAAU, or AAAUU and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first doubled stranded region are of the sequence GNUNN, GUUUU, GGUUU, GGUGU, or GGUUC.

5 44. The RNA of claim 42 wherein said nucleotide forming said first side of said first internal loop region is U and said nucleotide forming said second side of said first internal loop region is N, U or C.

45. The RNA of claim 42 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second double stranded region are of the sequence UAUAUU and said nucleotides forming said  
10 second side of said second doubled stranded region are of the sequence NAUNNA, GAUAUA, AAUGUA, GAUGCA, or GAUGUA.

46. The RNA of claim 42 wherein said nucleotides forming said first end loop region are of the sequence UAUUNUUN, UAUUUUUU, UAUUGUUG, or UAUUUUUG.

47. The RNA of claim 42 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

15 48. The RNA of claim 42 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

49. An *in silico* RNA comprising a joined sequence of nucleotides having secondary structure defined by:

- five nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;
- one nucleotide forming a first side of a first internal loop region;
- 20 six nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;
- eight nucleotides forming a first end loop region;
- six nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region;
- one nucleotide forming a second side of said first internal loop region; and
- five nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region.



50. The RNA of claim 49 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first double stranded region are of the sequence AAANU, AAAAU, or AAAUU and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first doubled stranded region are of the sequence GNUNN, GUUUU, GGUUU, GGUGU, or GGUUC.

5 51. The RNA of claim 49 wherein said nucleotide forming said first side of said first internal loop region is U and said nucleotide forming said second side of said first internal loop region is N, U or C.

52. The RNA of claim 49 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second double stranded region are of the sequence UAUAUU and said nucleotides forming said  
10 second side of said second doubled stranded region are of the sequence NAUNNA, GAUAUA, AAUGUA, GAUGCA, or GAUGUA.

53. The RNA of claim 49 wherein said nucleotides forming said first end loop region are of the sequence UAUUNUUN, UAUUUUUU, UAUUGUUG, or UAUUUUUG.

54. The RNA of claim 49 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

15 55. The RNA of claim 49 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

56. An RNA comprising the consensus sequence AAANUUUAUAUUUAUUNUUN NAUNNANGNUNN and having a first double stranded region, a first internal loop region, a second double stranded region, and an end loop region.

57. An *in silico* representation of an RNA fragment that is conserved across at least two  
20 species comprising the sequence AAANUUUAUAUUUAUUNUUNNAUNNANGNUNN.

58. A purified and isolated RNA fragment that is conserved across at least two species comprising the sequence AAANUUUAUAUUUAUUNUUNNAUNNANGNUNN.

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59. A purified and isolated RNA fragment comprising the human sequence  
AAAUUUUUAUAUUUAUUGUUGAAUGUAUGGUUU.

60. An RNA comprising a joined sequence of at least forty-three but not more than seventy nucleotides and having secondary structure defined by:

- 5 six nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;  
three nucleotides forming a first side of a first internal loop region;  
six nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;  
four nucleotides forming a first end loop region;  
six nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region;  
10 two nucleotides forming a second side of said first internal loop region;  
six nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region;  
one nucleotide forming a bulge between said first double stranded region and a third  
double stranded region;  
two or four nucleotides forming a first side of a third double stranded region;  
15 three nucleotides forming a second end loop region; and  
two or four nucleotides forming a second side of said third double stranded region.

61. The RNA of claim 60 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first  
double stranded region are of the sequence NNUNNN, GAUAAA, UAUAAA, or UCUGUU  
and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first double stranded region are of the  
20 sequence UNUNNN, UUUGUA, UCUGUA, or UUUUGU.

62. The RNA of claim 60 wherein said nucleotide forming said first side of said first  
internal loop region is NNN, UAU, CUA, or CAU and said nucleotide forming said second  
side of said first internal loop region is UU.

63. The RNA of claim 60 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second  
25 double stranded region are of the sequence NGAUCN, GGAUCU, or AGAUCA and said  
nucleotides forming said second side of said second double stranded region are of the  
sequence NGAUNC, AGAUUC, UGAUCC, or UGAUUC.

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64. The RNA of claim 60 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said third stem region are of the sequence N(or absent)N(or absent)CC, GCCC, or CC and said nucleotides forming said second side of said third stem region are of the sequence NNNN, GGGC, or GCGU.

5 65. The RNA of claim 60 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

66. The RNA of claim 60 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

67. A purified and isolated RNA comprising a joined sequence of nucleotides having secondary structure defined by:

- 10 six nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;  
three nucleotides forming a first side of a first internal loop region;  
six nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;  
four nucleotides forming a first end loop region;  
six nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region;  
two nucleotides forming a second side of said first internal loop region;  
15 six nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region;  
one nucleotide forming a bulge between said first double stranded region and a third double stranded region;  
two or four nucleotides forming a first side of a third double stranded region;  
three nucleotides forming a second end loop region; and  
20 two or four nucleotides forming a second side of said third double stranded region.

68. The RNA of claim 67 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first double stranded region are of the sequence NNUNNN, GAUAAA, UAUAAA, or UCUGUU and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first double stranded region are of the sequence UNUNNN, UUUGUA, UCUGUA, or UUUUGU.

69. The RNA of claim 67 wherein said nucleotide forming said first side of said first internal loop region is NNN, UAU, CUA, or CAU and said nucleotide forming said second side of said first internal loop region is UU.

70. The RNA of claim 67 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second double stranded region are of the sequence NGAUCN, GGAUCU, or AGAUCA and said nucleotides forming said second side of said second doubled stranded region are of the sequence NGAUNC, AGAUUC, UGAUCC, or UGAUUC.

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10 71. The RNA of claim 67 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said third stem region are of the sequence N(or absent)N(or absent)CC, GCCC, or CC and said nucleotides forming said second side of said third stem region are of the sequence NNNN, GGGC, or GCGU.

72. The RNA of claim 67 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

73. The RNA of claim 67 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

15 74. An *in silico* RNA comprising a joined sequence of nucleotides having secondary structure defined by:

six nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;

three nucleotides forming a first side of a first internal loop region;

six nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;

four nucleotides forming a first end loop region;

20 six nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region;

two nucleotides forming a second side of said first internal loop region;

six nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region;

one nucleotide forming a bulge between said first double stranded region and a third double stranded region;

25 two or four nucleotides forming a first side of a third double stranded region;

three nucleotides forming a second end loop region; and

two or four nucleotides forming a second side of said third double stranded region.

75. The RNA of claim 74 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first double stranded region are of the sequence NNUNNN, GAUAAA, UAUAAA, or UCUGUU and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first doubled stranded region are of the  
5 sequence UNUNNN, UUUGUA, UCUGUA, or UUUUGU.

76. The RNA of claim 74 wherein said nucleotide forming said first side of said first internal loop region is NNN, UAU, CUA, or CAU and said nucleotide forming said second side of said first internal loop region is UU.

77. The RNA of claim 74 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second  
10 double stranded region are of the sequence NGAUCN, GGAUCU, or AGAUCA and said nucleotides forming said second side of said second doubled stranded region are of the sequence NGAUNC, AGAUUC, UGAUCC, or UGAUUC.

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15 78. The RNA of claim 74 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said third stem region are of the sequence N(or absent)N(or absent)CC, GCCC, or CC and said nucleotides forming said second side of said third stem region are of the sequence NNNN, GGGC, or GCGU.

79. The RNA of claim 74 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

80. The RNA of claim 74 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

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20 81. An RNA comprising the consensus sequence NNUNNNNNNNNGAUCNUNN NNGAUNCUUUNUNNNAN(or absent)N(or absent)CCNNNNNNNN and having a first double stranded region, a first internal loop region, a second double stranded region, and a first end loop region, a third double stranded region, and a second end loop region.

82. An *in silico* representation of an RNA fragment that is conserved across at least two species comprising the sequence NNUNNNNNNNGAUCNUNNNNNGAUNCUUUNU  
NNNAN(or absent)N(or absent)CCNNNNNNNN.

5 83. A purified and isolated RNA fragment that is conserved across at least two species comprising the sequence NNUNNNNNNNGAUCNUNNNNNGAUNCUUUNU  
NNNAN(or absent)N(or absent)CCNNNNNNNN.

84. A purified and isolated RNA fragment comprising the human sequence  
UAUAAAUAUGGAUCUUUUAUGAUUCUUUUUGUAAGCCCUAGGGGC.

10 85. A purified and isolated RNA fragment comprising the mouse sequence  
GAUAAAUAUGGAUCUUUAAAGAUUCUUUUUGUAAGCCCCAAGGGC.

86. A purified and isolated RNA fragment comprising the rat sequence  
GAUAAAUAUGGAUCUUUAAAGAUUCUUUUUGUAAGCCCCAAGGGC.

87. An RNA comprising a joined sequence of at least twenty-nine but not more than  
seventy nucleotides and having secondary structure defined by:

- 15 five nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;  
four nucleotides forming a first side of a first end loop region;  
five nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region;  
two nucleotides forming a bulge between said first double stranded region and a  
second double stranded region;  
20 five nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;  
three nucleotides forming a second end loop region; and  
five nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region.

88. The RNA of claim 87 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first  
double stranded region are of the sequence NNNGA, UAAGA, AAAGA, UAUGA, or

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UUUGA and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first doubled stranded region are of the sequence GNGNN, GGGCU, or GCGUG.

89. The RNA of claim 87 wherein said nucleotides forming said first end loop region are of the sequence UNCU, UUCU, or UCCU.

5 90. The RNA of claim 87 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second double stranded region are of the sequence AGCCC and said nucleotides forming said second side of said second doubled stranded region are of the sequence GNGNN, GGGCU, or GCGUG.

10 91. The RNA of claim 87 wherein said nucleotides forming said second end loop region are of the sequence NAN, UAC, UAG, CAA, or UAA.

92. The RNA of claim 87 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

93. The RNA of claim 87 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

94. A purified and isolated RNA comprising a joined sequence of nucleotides having secondary structure defined by:

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15 five nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;  
four nucleotides forming a first side of a first end loop region;  
five nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region;  
two nucleotides forming a bulge between said first double stranded region and a  
second double stranded region;  
20 five nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;  
three nucleotides forming a second end loop region; and  
five nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region.

95. The RNA of claim 94 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first double stranded region are of the sequence NNNGA, UAAGA, AAAGA, UAUGA, or

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UUUGA and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first doubled stranded region are of the sequence GNGNN, GGGCU, or GCGUG.

96. The RNA of claim 94 wherein said nucleotides forming said first end loop region are of the sequence UNCU, UUCU, or UCCU.

5 97. The RNA of claim 94 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second double stranded region are of the sequence AGCCC and said nucleotides forming said second side of said second doubled stranded region are of the sequence GNGNN, GGGCU, or GCGUG.

10 98. The RNA of claim 94 wherein said nucleotides forming said second end loop region are of the sequence NAN, UAC, UAG, CAA, or UAA.

99. The RNA of claim 94 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

100. The RNA of claim 94 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

101. An *in silico* RNA comprising a joined sequence of nucleotides having secondary structure defined by:

- 15 five nucleotides forming a first side of a first double stranded region;  
four nucleotides forming a first side of a first end loop region;  
five nucleotides forming a second side of said first double stranded region;  
two nucleotides forming a bulge between said first double stranded region and a  
second double stranded region;  
20 five nucleotides forming a first side of a second double stranded region;  
three nucleotides forming a second end loop region; and  
five nucleotides forming a second side of said second double stranded region.

102. The RNA of claim 101 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said first double stranded region are of the sequence NNNGA, UAAGA, AAAGA, UAUGA, or



UUUGA and said nucleotides forming said second side of said first doubled stranded region are of the sequence GNGNN, GGGCU, or GCGUG.

103. The RNA of claim 101 wherein said nucleotides forming said first end loop region are of the sequence UNCU, UUCU, or UCCU.

5 104. The RNA of claim 101 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said second double stranded region are of the sequence AGCCC and said nucleotides forming said second side of said second doubled stranded region are of the sequence GNGNN, GGGCU, or GCGUG.

10 105. The RNA of claim 101 wherein said nucleotides forming said second end loop region are of the sequence NAN, UAC, UAG, CAA, or UAA.

106. The RNA of claim 101 comprising a portion of interleukin-2 RNA.

107. The RNA of claim 101 comprising a portion of the 3' UTR of interleukin-2 mRNA.

15 108. An RNA comprising the consensus sequence NNNGAUNCUUUNNGUAAGCC CNANGNGNN and having a first double stranded region, a first end loop region, a second double stranded region, and a second end loop region.

20 109. An *in silico* representation of an RNA fragment that is conserved across at least two species comprising the sequence NNNGAUNCUUUNNGUAAGCCCNANGNGNN.

110. A purified and isolated RNA fragment that is conserved across at least two species comprising the sequence NNNGAUNCUUUNNGUAAGCCCNANGNGNN.

111. A purified and isolated RNA fragment comprising the human sequence UAUGAUUCUUUUUGUAAGCCCUAGGGGCU.

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112. A purified and isolated RNA fragment comprising the mouse sequence  
AAAGAUUCUUUUUGUAAGCCCCAAGGGCU.

113. A purified and isolated ~~RNA~~ fragment comprising the rat sequence  
AAAGAUUCUUUUUGUAAGCCCCAAGGGCU.

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